

# US VA History SOL Materials

## The Civil War and Reconstruction

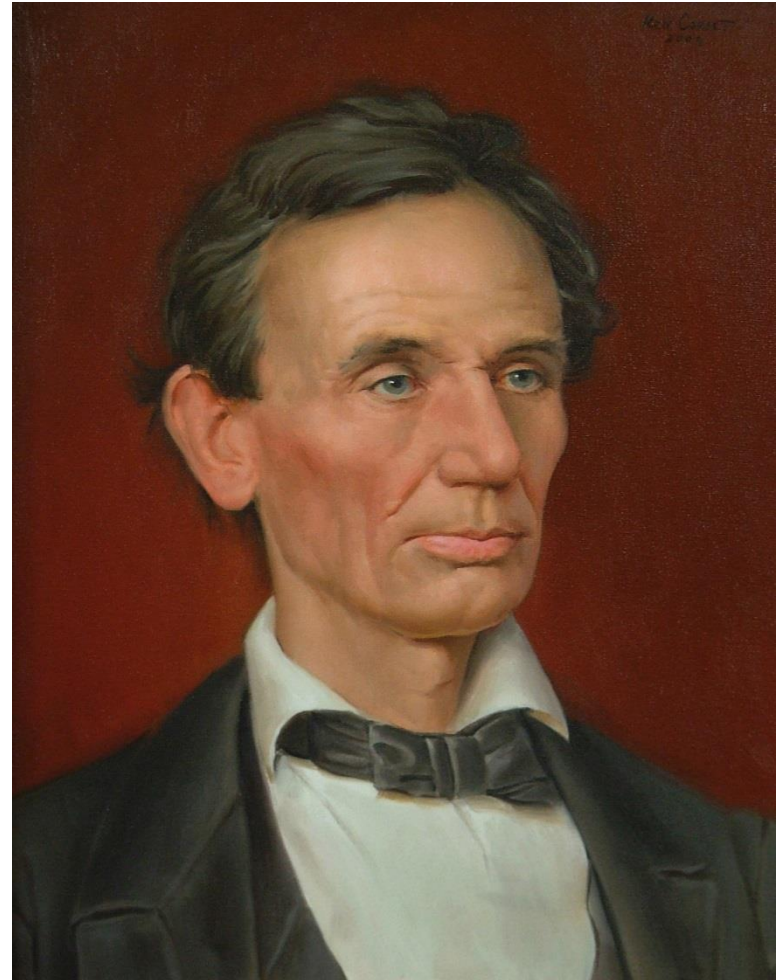


Between 1861 and 1865, Ulysses S. Grant and Abraham Lincoln saved the Union. In the years following the war, Reconstructing America proved to be just as challenging a period of American History.

# Lincoln's Election in 1860 Resulted in the Secession of Southern States.

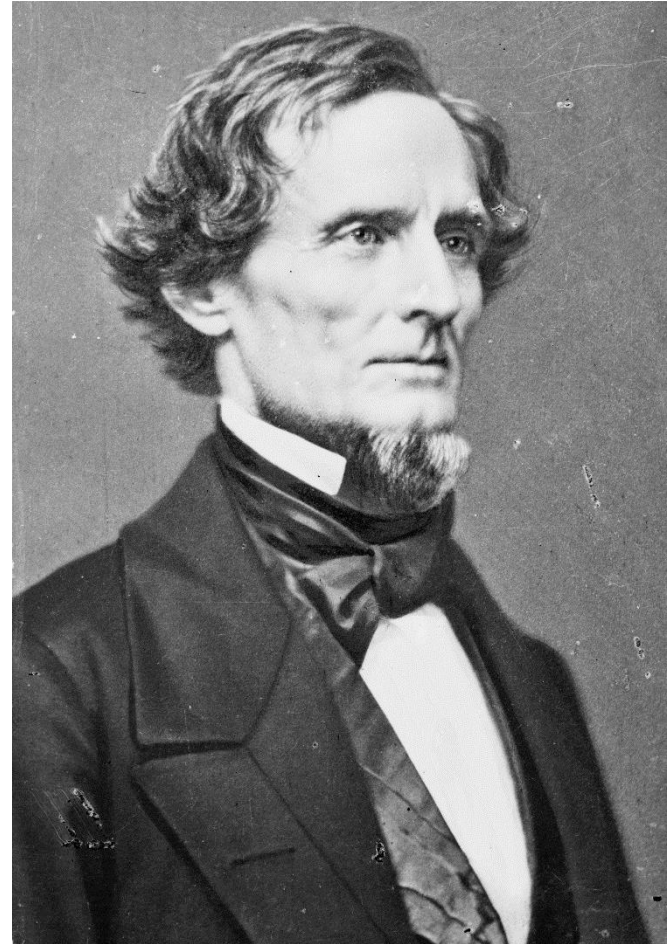
Immediately after Lincoln's election, seven (7) states left the Union – before he had even been inaugurated:

- South Carolina
- Florida
- Georgia
- Texas
- Alabama
- Mississippi
- Louisiana



# Jefferson Davis was the President of the Confederate States of America.

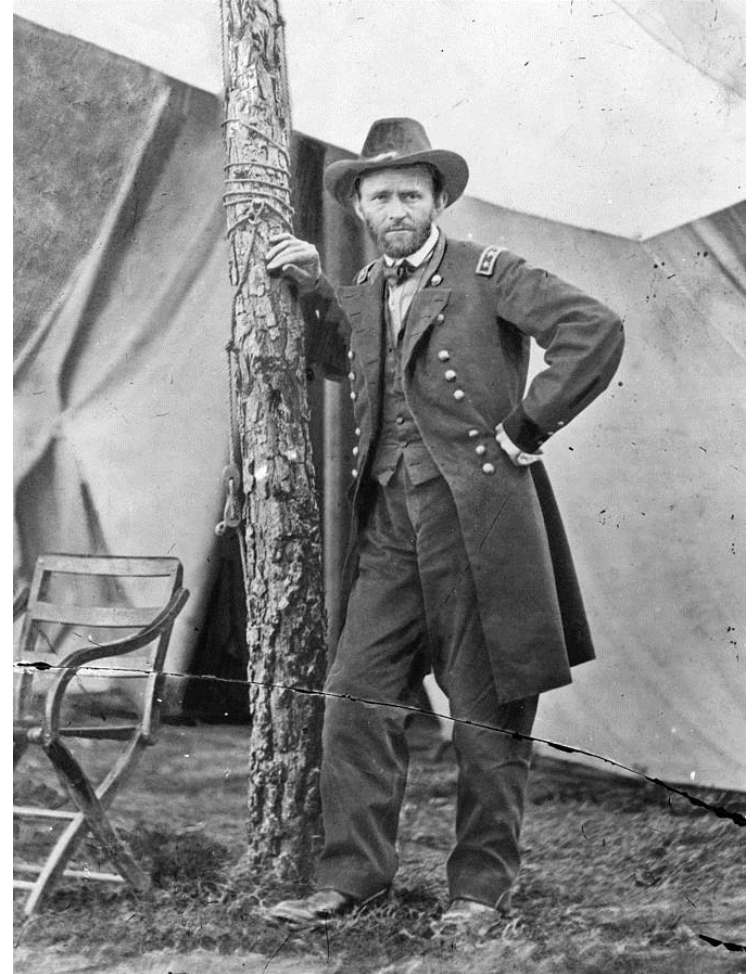
Jefferson Davis was a former Senator from Mississippi and Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce. When the Confederacy was formed in 1861, Jefferson Davis was elected President of the Confederate States of America. He was the Confederacy's only President, serving from 1861 to the end of the Civil War.





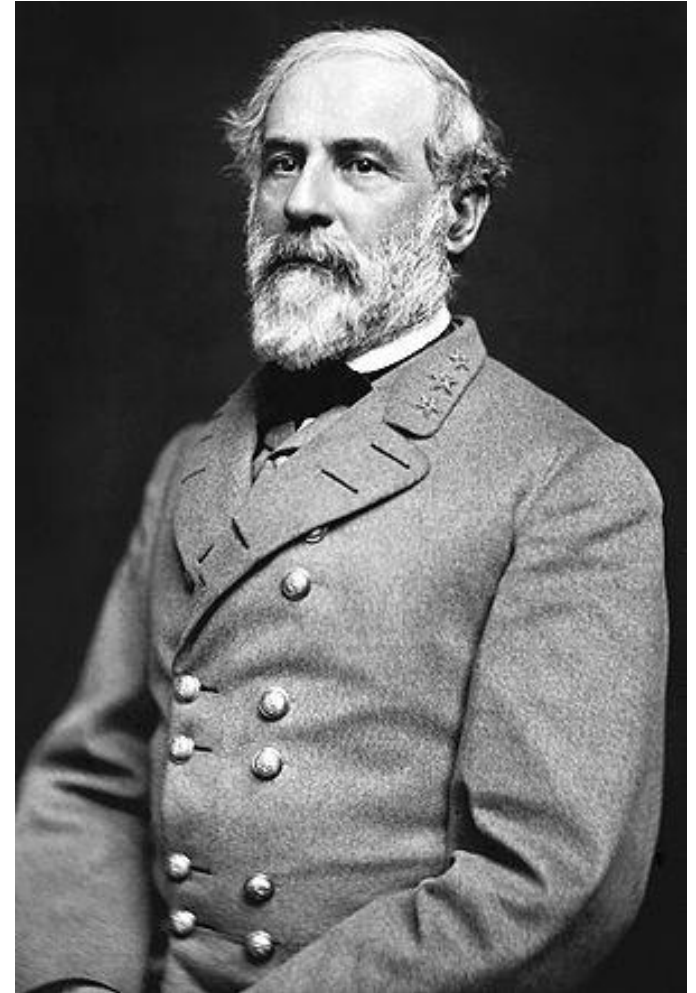
# Ulysses S. Grant was the General in Chief of the Union Army.

After a series of lesser generals proved unable to command the Army with the necessary forcefulness, Ulysses S. Grant took control of the Union Army in 1864. He doggedly pursued Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to the end of the war, at Appomattox Court House, VA, on April 9, 1865.



# Robert E. Lee was the General of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Although he claimed to oppose secession, he fought against the nation he had served in the US Army for four years as the leader of the Army of Northern Virginia. His military genius prolonged the war for the Confederacy; his critical errors, however, during the Battle of Gettysburg resulted in the Confederacy losing the war.



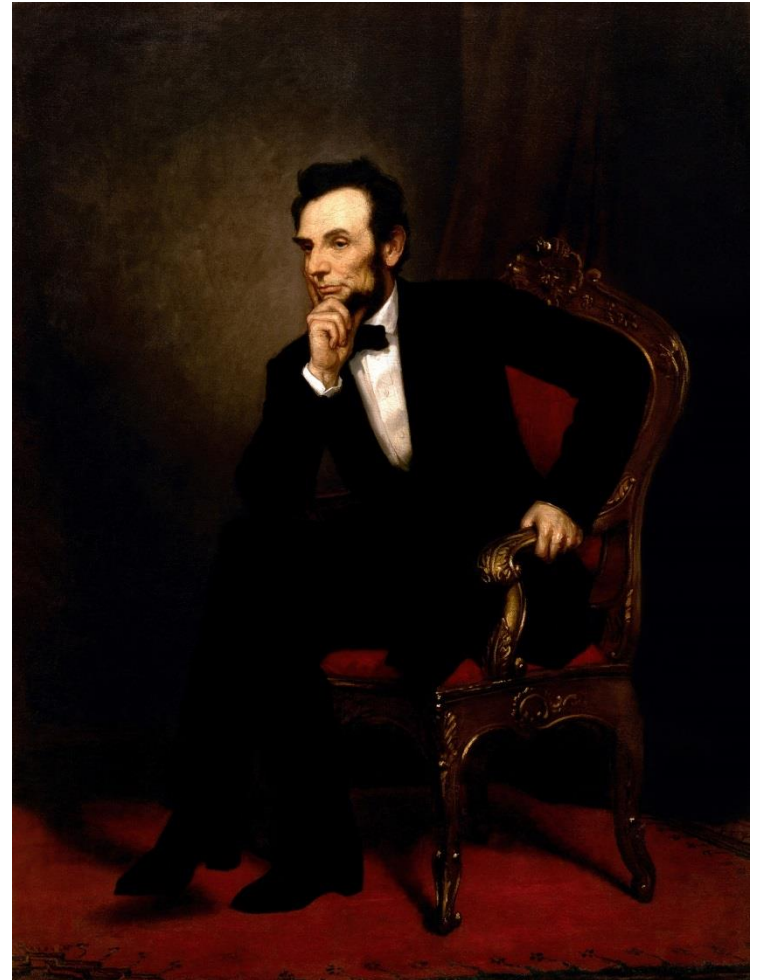
# Frederick Douglass Encouraged Lincoln to Permit African-American Soldiers into the Union Army.



Frederick Douglass was a runaway slave, and abolitionist newspaper editor, and one of the strongest advocates for African-Americans throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. During the Civil War, he petitioned Abraham Lincoln to allow black soldiers to serve in the Union Army.

# Lincoln Believed Secession would destroy American Democracy and violated the US Constitution.

Abraham Lincoln did not think that democracy would survive secession. If the minority could simply leave the nation when they were outvoted, the nation could fracture into anarchy very quickly. Fighting to prevent secession, in Lincoln's mind, was fighting to save democracy itself.





# CONFEDERATE AGGRESSION AT FORT SUMTER STARTED THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War started on April 12, 1861, when Confederate General P.T.G. Beauregard began shelling Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. After hours of bombardment, Major Robert Anderson surrendered the fort. Abraham Lincoln would call for 75,000 soldiers to put down the rebellion.





# Billy Yank and Johnny Reb Suffered During the Civil War

Ordinary soldiers suffered unspeakable hardships during the Civil War. 625,000 men died. Millions suffered ghastly injuries – including amputations and gruesome disfigurement. The men fought for four years in close contact – literally hand to hand in some places – and recorded their struggles in letters home or in diaries. The suffering of the common soldier during the Civil War from hunger, disease, exposure, and isolation is at the heart of our understanding of the conflict.



# Women Struggled, too, Taking on Roles as Nurses and in Industry.

Women were charged with maintaining the homefront as millions of Americans served the Union and the Confederacy. Women took on new roles – including management of plantations and homesteads, the supervision of industry producing war materials, and nursing – like Sally Tompkins, the Confederate nurse pictured to the right of this frame.

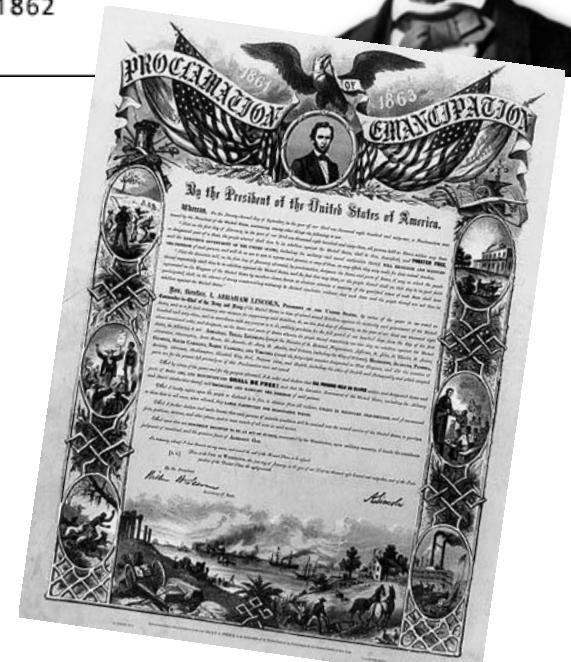
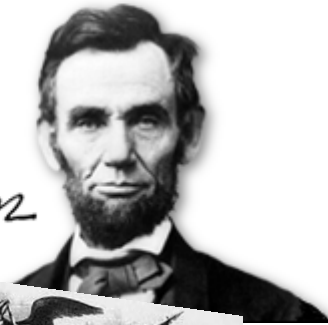


# The Emancipation Proclamation was Issued After the Battle of Antietam

At the start of the Civil War, the goal of the Union was simply to bring the Southern states back into the Union. Lincoln made that exceedingly clear as late as August of 1862. But after the Battle of Antietam, a bloody victory for the Union, Lincoln changed the goal of the Union by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. The Proclamation freed all of the slaves in parts of the South still actively in rebellion against the Union.

*"If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that.... I have here stated my purpose according to my view of official duty; and I intend no modification of my oft-expressed personal wish that all men everywhere could be free."*

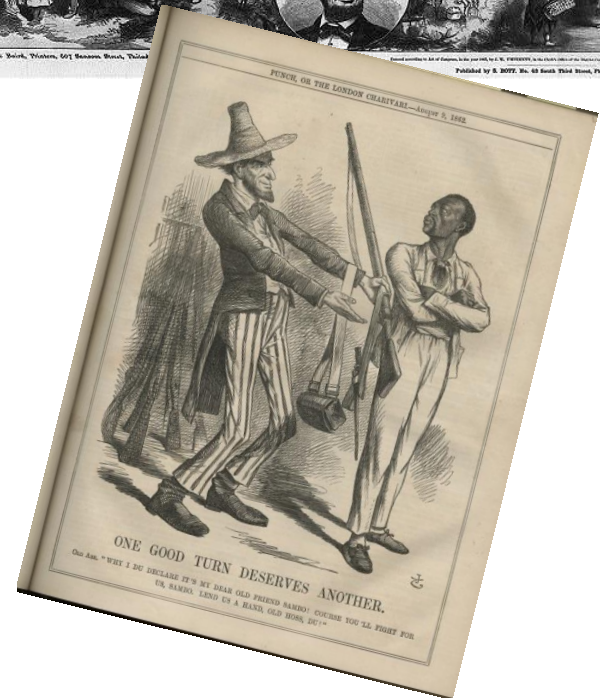
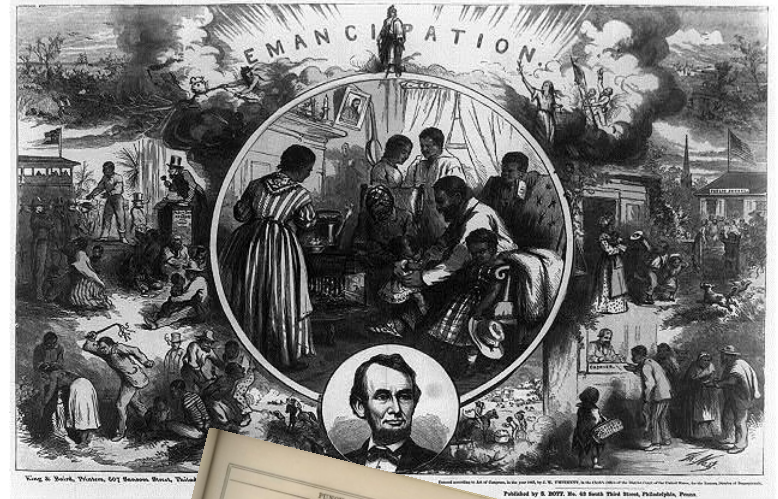
*Abraham Lincoln*  
August 22, 1862





# Effects of The Emancipation Proclamation, effective January 1, 1863

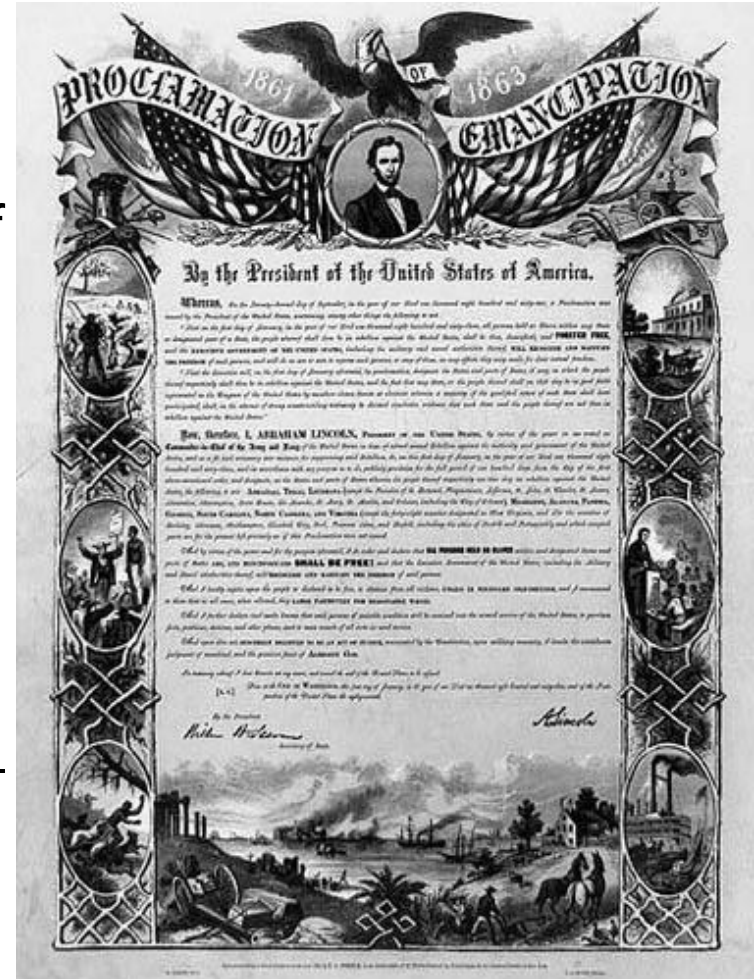
1. The Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in parts of the South still in rebellion, forever more.
2. The Emancipation Proclamation made the abolition of slavery the new goal of the Union. Everyone understood that emancipation from slavery was not reversible. Once the enslaved began liberating themselves, slavery must be abolished.



# Effects of The Emancipation Proclamation, effective January 1, 1863

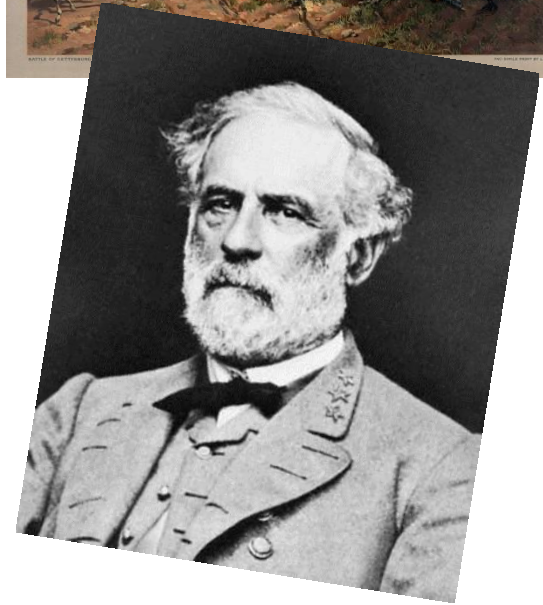
3. The Emancipation Proclamation discouraged interference from England and France. Both nations depended on the Confederacy for their supply of cotton – which kept textile mills running; however, both nations were also opposed morally to slavery. By devoting the Union to the destruction of slavery, Lincoln kept England and France out of the war.

4. The Emancipation Proclamation allowed and encouraged African-Americans to join the Union military – both in the Army and the Navy. Each soldier that left a Southern plantation to serve the Union was a double victory for the Union.



# The Battle of Gettysburg was the Turning Point of the Civil War

The Battle of Gettysburg, fought on July 1 - 3, 1863, proved to be the turning point in the Civil War. Hoping to win a major victory on Northern soil, Robert E. Lee led his Army into Pennsylvania. There, he made his worst miscalculation of the war, charging the Union lines on the final day of the battle. Pickett's Charge failed, and the Army of Northern Virginia was crippled for the remainder of the conflict.





# The Gettysburg Address

1. In the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln defined the war as a struggle to save a nation “dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”
2. Lincoln opined that ultimately, victory would prove that a “government of the people, by the people, and for the people” could survive.



Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863. It was part of a ceremony dedicating the national cemetery in Gettysburg, where the slain were laid to rest. His words were not celebrated at the time, but have stirred the nation ever since.

# Robert E. Lee Surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House, VA

After a series of bloody battles between Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and Grant's Army of the Potomac, Robert E. Lee was compelled to surrender his Army on April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. The generous terms of surrender offered by Grant were a first step towards reconciliation and helped to bring the nation back together.



Grant allowed Lee's men to keep their weapons and their horses, for it was spring and planting season. He also offered rations to the Confederate soldiers who had not eaten for days. Lee told his men to go home and be good citizens.

# Effects of the War: We are One Nation, Indivisible.

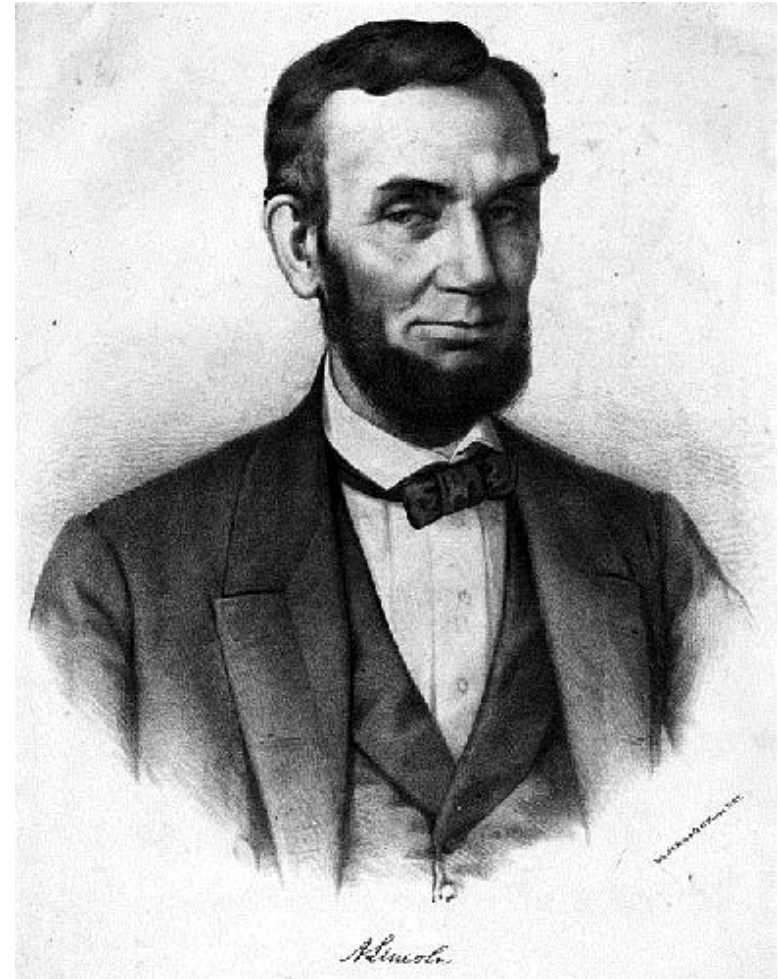
The supremacy of the national government over the states was assured by the Civil War. National citizenship – a set of rights and equal protection articulated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment – was established as well. Secession was confirmed as unlawful. The Union was indivisible.





# Lincoln wanted to restore Southern States quickly – 10% Plan

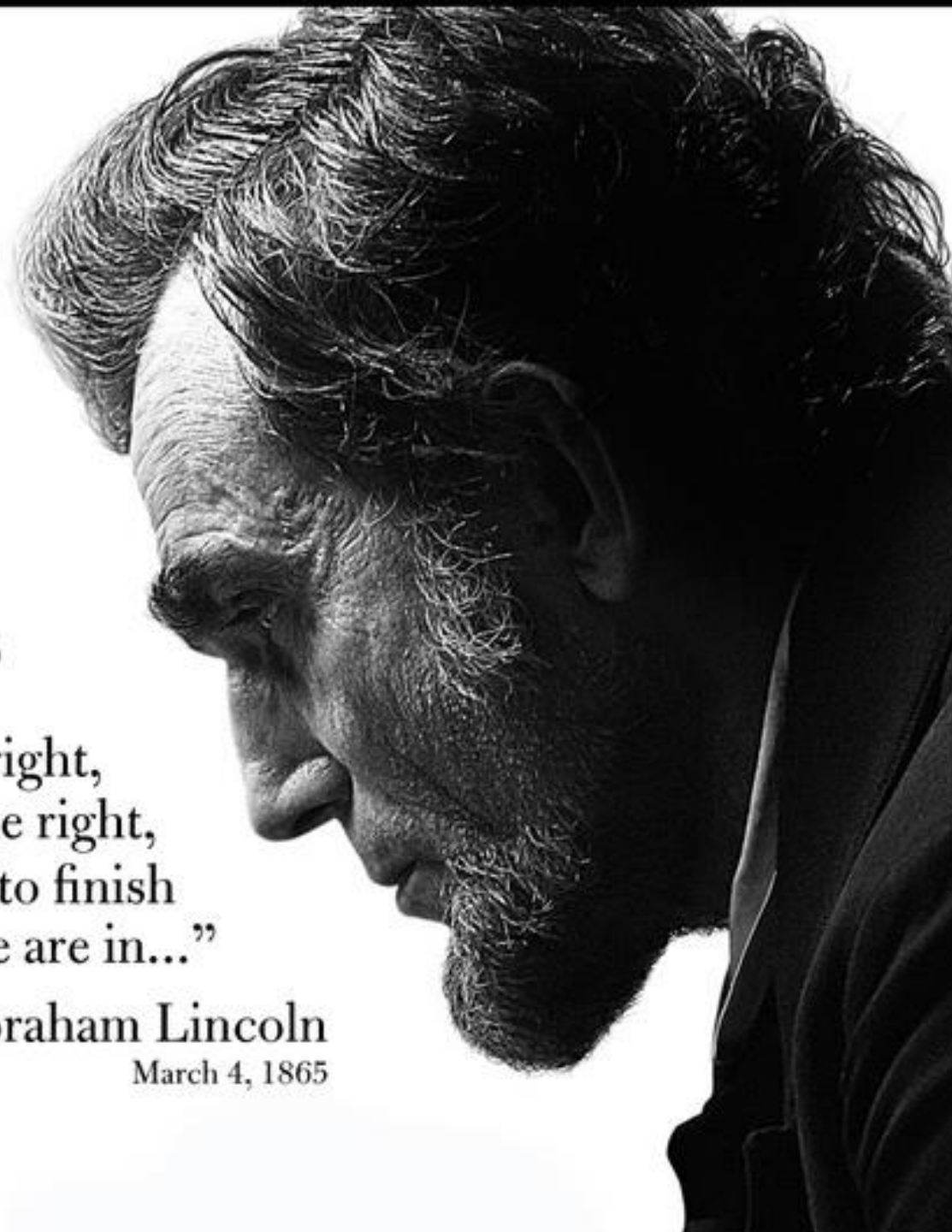
After the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln made it clear that he wanted for the nation to be rejoined and reconstructed as quickly as possible. The southern states had never been an independent nation in his mind. Now, the citizens of the South need only swear loyalty to the Union and abandon slavery to be brought back into the Union.



“With malice toward none;  
with charity for all;  
with firmness in the right,  
as God gives us to see the right,  
let us strive on to finish  
the work we are in...”

Abraham Lincoln

March 4, 1865



# Lincoln's Assassination led to Greater Influence by Radical Republicans.

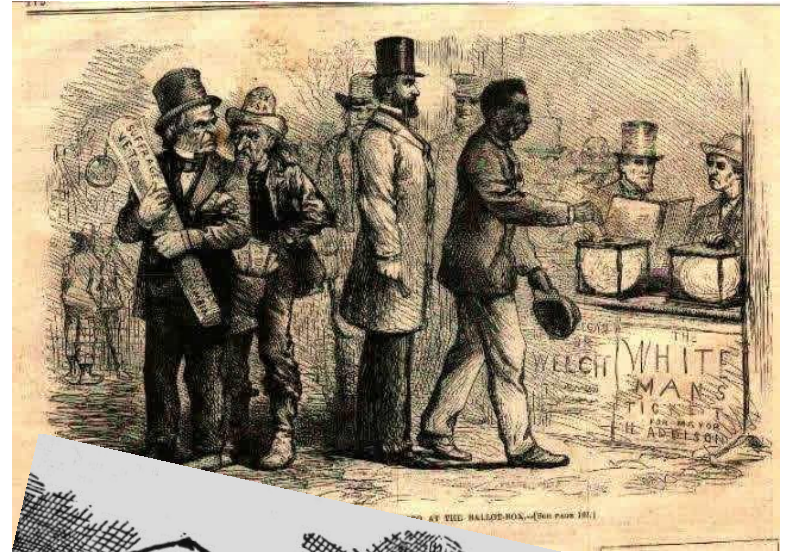


When John Wilkes Booth assassinated the President on Good Friday, April 15, 1865, he did the former Confederacy much more harm than good. When Lincoln passed, the Radical Republicans took charge of the Reconstruction. Furious with the Democratic Southerner, Andrew Johnson, who had been Lincoln's Vice President, the Radicals overrode his every veto, passed their own legislation, and even impeached the President.



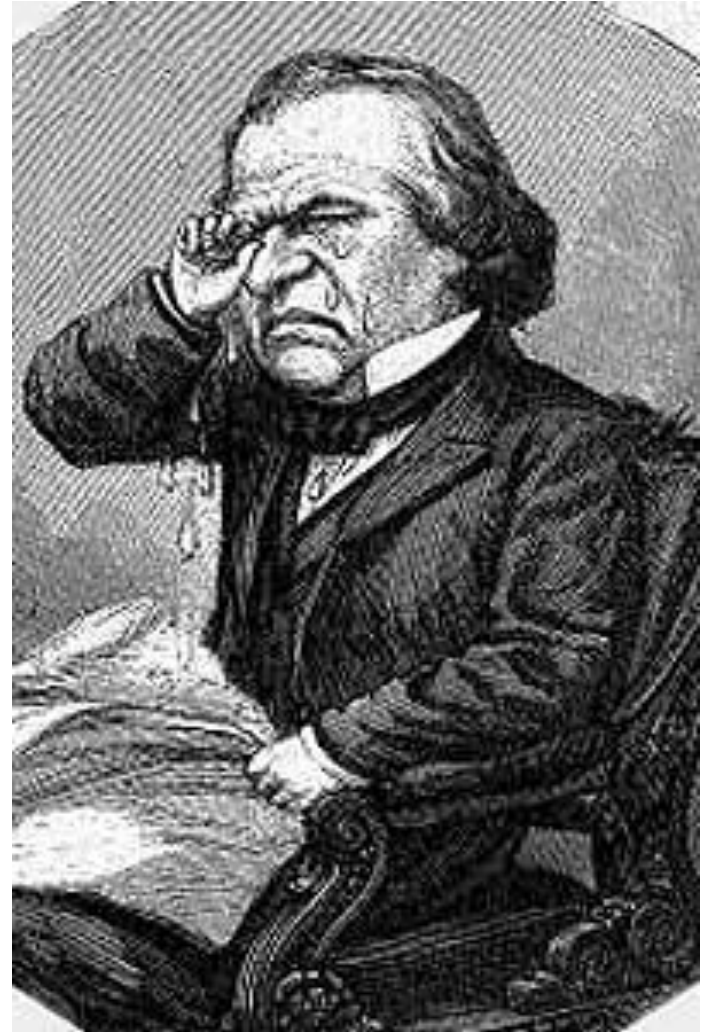
# Radical Republicans demanded voting rights and citizenship for African-Americans.

The Radical Republicans in Congress were intent upon two things: (1) helping formerly enslaved African-Americans gain political rights – both citizenship and voting rights, and (2) Punishing the leaders of the Confederacy for their treasonous actions. During Radical Reconstruction, the Union Army would militarily occupy the South, dividing the region into five military districts, each with its own military leader.



# Andrew Johnson was impeached, but not removed from office.

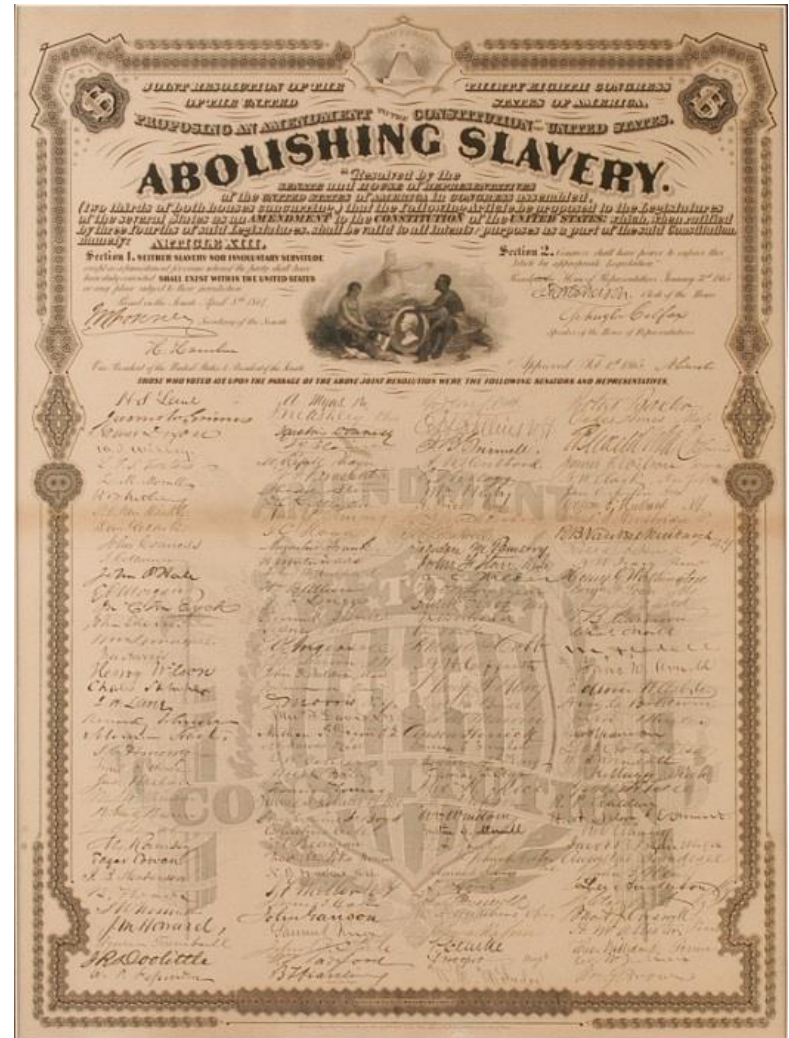
Lincoln had selected Andrew Johnson as his running mate because he was a Southerner and a Democrat. He wanted to show his capacity to compromise – and demonstrate his good intentions towards the South. When Johnson became President, though, Republicans despised him! He was impeached for violating a law they passed – the Office of Tenure Act – which was probably unconstitutional. He was not removed from office.





# 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment Abolished Slavery.

The Reconstruction Amendments were all intended to help the formerly enslaved gain basic rights. The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, passed just before the end of the Civil War, abolished slavery in the United States of America.





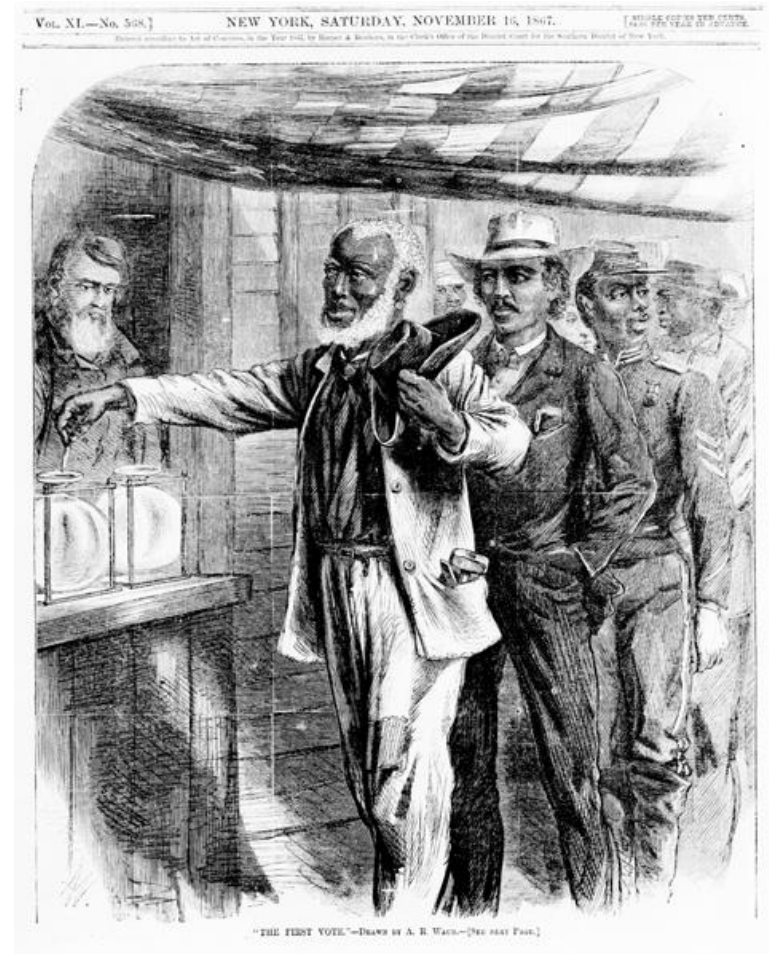
# 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment – Citizenship and Equal Protection Under the Law

The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment gave citizenship rights to anyone born in the United States of America – including both former slaves and ex-Confederates. It specifically excluded Native Americans; however, everyone else as promised equal protection under the law and granted national citizenship.



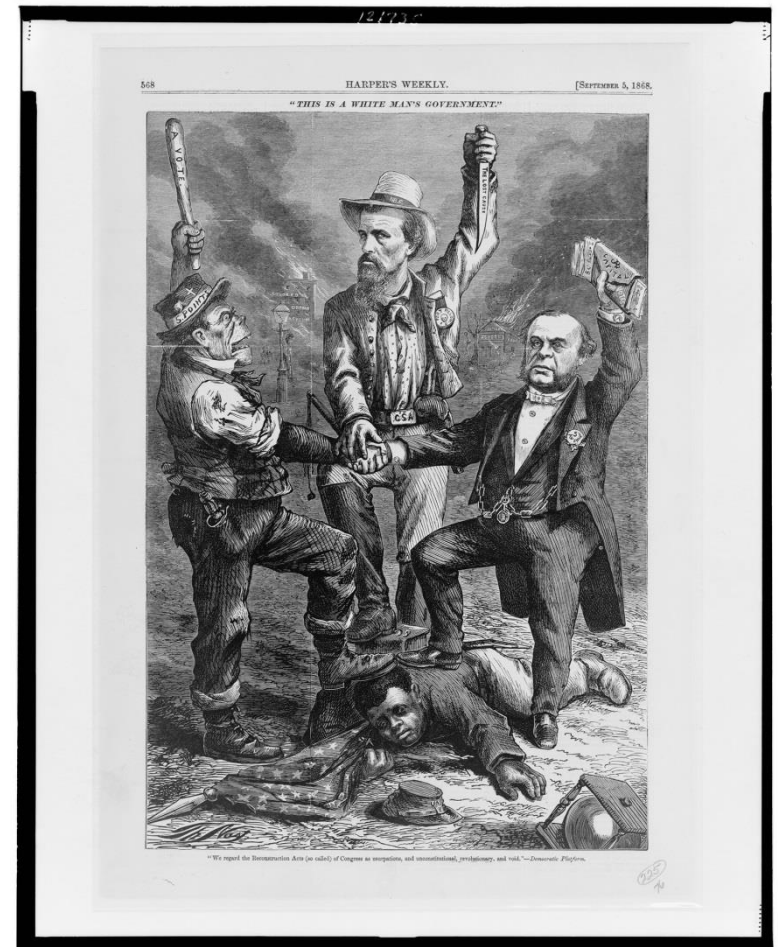
# 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment – The Vote

African-American men gained the right to vote thanks to the passage and ratification of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. Recall that women did not gain the right to vote until the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed in 1919. This was the signature accomplishment of the Radical Republicans; Frederick Douglas considered it absolutely essential to progress for African-Americans.



# The Compromise of 1876 Ended Reconstruction under Hayes.

The Compromise of 1876 ended Reconstruction, brought White Supremacists to power, and opened the door to “Jim Crow” laws. In exchange for the Electoral College votes he needed to secure the Presidency, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes promised to withdraw all federal soldiers from the South and agreed to allow white supremacist governments to take power in a host of Southern states.





# The South was destroyed and would remain poor for decades.

The economic devastation brought to the South by the Civil War was lasting. Their cities were razed to the ground; their money was now worthless; their economy was in shambles, and their laborers – the enslaved, were now free workers, commanding wages and dignity. It would take decades for the South to regain any semblance of economic prosperity.



Above, Richmond was destroyed by the final years of the Civil War. Sherman's men burned Atlanta, and razed a path of destruction in Georgia.

# The North and Midwest Prosper

The North and Midwest became economically stronger during the Civil War. Indeed, as industry developed, the US gained global power economically. Individuals like Andrew Carnegie grew rich with shrewd investments during the Civil War, and contractors who provided materials for the Union Army used their industrial capacity to produce ironworks, railroads, and infrastructure in the years following the Civil War. The North and Midwest grew rich.



Railroads, steamboats, steel, and heavy industry expanded during the Civil War, and industrialists grew wealthy supplying the Union.



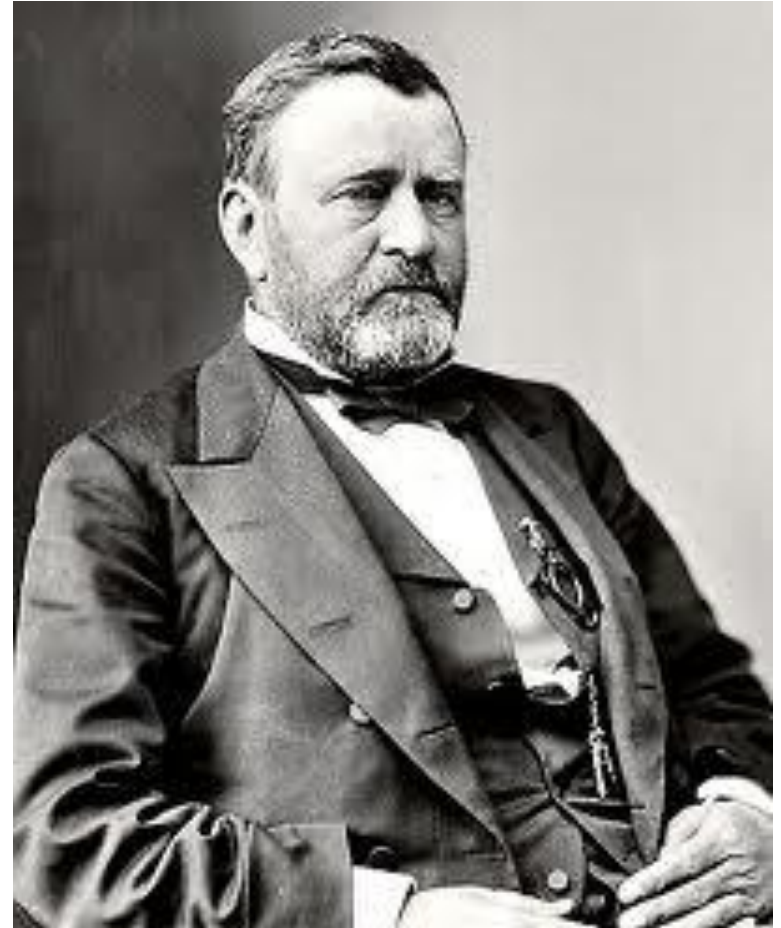
# Transcontinental Railroad led to the rapid settlement of the West.





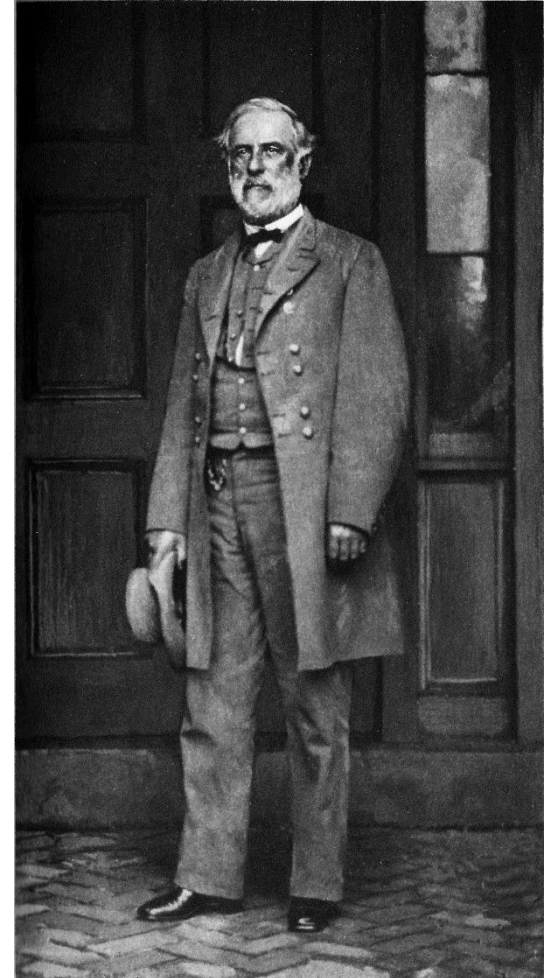
# Grant's Presidency, 1869 - 1877

Ulysses S. Grant became President of the United States following the Civil War, from 1869 – 1877. During his Presidency he encouraged Radical Republicans to be lenient towards the South, but remained devoted to the cause of equal rights for Freedmen. He opposed taking revenge on the South, although many there hated him.



# Lee Emphasized Cooperation and Education at Washington & Lee.

In the years following the Civil War, former general Robert E. Lee encouraged Southerners to cooperate and act as good citizens. He served as the President of Washington College following the war – now Washington & Lee University – and emphasized the importance of education in all young people's lives.



# Frederick Douglas sought greater rights for African-Americans.

After the Civil War, Frederick Douglas continued to seek equality for African-Americans, as he had his entire life. He advocated successfully for the passage of the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution, and encouraged the federal government to protect the rights of African-American people. Later in his life he served as ambassador to Haiti. He was also a supporter of the woman's suffrage movement.

